**Policy Debate Team Try-Outs**

**Task**: You will need prepare a three-minute speech to deliver to Ms. Lee-Bey and our team captain.  The speech should be about education reform.  Remember, education reform refers to how we should change our current education system.  There are several areas that you could address; here are some examples:

* School uniforms: students attending public schools should be required to wear school uniforms.
* School lunches: the government should create a school garden-to-table lunch program to ensure students eat healthily
* Charter schools: the federal government should limit the number of charter schools that can operate in a city or state
* STEM education: the government should increase the amount they spend on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.
* Foreign language: the government should improve foreign language programs by increasing funding for foreign language learning
* Native American education: the federal government should increase funding to train teachers of Native American languages.
* School-to-prison-pipeline: schools should ban student resource officers from schools because they contribute to the school-to-prison-pipeline.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WRITE A SPEECH ABOUT SOMETHING IN THE LIST ABOVE.  If you have other ideas about education reform, that’s great!  Feel free to write a speech about what you’d like to change.

**Speech**: Your speech should be written in the following format-

1. What’s the problem you want to solve?
2. How do you plan to solve the problem? (what’s your plan?)
3. How will your plan solve the problem?
4. Are there any other benefits to doing your plan?

The purpose of the try-outs is for me to get to know you as a debater.  Do your best, and have fun!  This is your chance to speak about what you think and what you believe!

I have included an example below.

As always, feel free to email me if you have questions, comments, or concerns.  [bleebey@latinpcs.org](mailto:bleebey@latinpcs.org)

Have a great weekend!

Ms. Lee-Bey

*Speech Format Example*

PROBLEM: Students in the 21st century are required to have technological skills and knowledge to compete with their peers globally.  However, there are hundreds of thousands of children that live without internet access in this country.  It is now almost impossible to be successful in school without internet access, as teachers often assign work that requires students use educational websites and/or submit assignments electronically.  This puts children living in poverty at a disadvantage.

PLAN: Therefore, the US federal government should provide funding to public school districts (K-12) in order to prove internet access to families living in poverty.

SOLVE THE PROBLEM: This plan will solve the problem because it will ensure that all students have access to an adequate education.  Katrina Tomasevski’s 4A’s framework urges governments to provide education that is *available*, *accessible, acceptable,* and *adaptable.*  In the 21st century, students need internet to stay abreast of classroom instruction and for research opportunities; without internet, education is not *accessible*, and thus the federal government must provide free internet access to students  in order to provide an accessible education to all students.

BENEFIT- HUMAN RIGHTS:  The United States federal government has a responsibility to ensure that each child has access to adequate education, as mandated by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).  It is a fundamental human right (UN Declaration of Human Rights). The United States of America has signed both the convention and the declaration (1995), so they are obligated to provide an adequate education to all students including those in poverty, by way of providing the tools necessary to learn.  Without the internet, students are not able to learn skills to be globally competitive in the 21st century. Without providing free internet for educational purposes, the government is violating the human rights of a child.

Therefore, we should urge the federal government to create a program that will provide free internet access to all public school systems serving students in grades K-12.